a. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A61M39/06 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 A61M Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X US 5 149 327 A (OSHIYAMA HIROAKI) 1-5, 22 September 1992 (1992-09-22) 11 - 15column 6, line 36 - column 7, line 48 column 8, line 51 - line 57 column 13, line 6 - line 33 figures 1,2,10 Υ 6 - 10Υ US 4 143 853 A (ABRAMSON HARVEY J) 6 - 1013 March 1979 (1979-03-13). column 2, line 31 - column 3, line 54; figures 1-4 X US 5 267 966 A (PAUL RAM H) 1-5, 7 December 1993 (1993-12-07) 11 - 13column 2, line 34 - column 4, line 4; figures 1,5,6 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the International "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 6 September 2004 14/09/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Schönleben, J

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